



Happy Arbor Day!

April 25

National Arbor Day is the last Friday in April.

Arbor Day is the time for planting new trees in yards, parks, neighborhoods, and communities. Arbor day is also a time to appreciate trees both for their beauty and their usefulness.

The idea for Arbor Day came from a man named Julius Sterling Morton, from Nebraska City, Nebraska, and was first celebrated in 1872 (142 years ago). Morton and his wife, Caroline, were among the pioneers moving into the Nebraska Territory. Having lived in Detroit where they were surrounded by trees, they grew up being lovers of nature.

This simple idea for setting aside a special day for planting trees is now more important than ever. In the years following that first Arbor Day, Morton's idea spread beyond Nebraska and today all 50 states celebrate Arbor Day. In fact countries all over the world celebrate tree plantings and festivals.

Trees provide us with shade to cool our homes and cities, they help to absorb air pollution and make our air cleaner, they provide food and shelter for wildlife, they provide food for us (fruits, nuts, maple syrup, cinnamon), they also provide us with cork, medicines, Christmas trees, wood (for pencils, to build furniture and our homes), and fuel as firewood. Trees can be grown sustainably for these uses.

